

# WEEKLY CHRONICLE

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## Ceremony Held For Brawley Bypass Phase Three Start

**By Chris Furguson**

CalTrans and the Imperial County Transportation Commission held a groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremony for phases 2 and 3 of the Brawley Bypass on the morning of Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

The Ceremony was well attended with dignitaries from all over Southern California, representing many groups involved in the project, from city, county, and state agencies.

Also on hand was Congressman Bob Filner, who helped with important funding during the second phase of the project, along with Brawley Mayor Don Campbell, Brawley Council member Ryan Kelley and SCAG president Larry McCallon.

CalTrans Director Cindy McKim spoke on the difficulty in attaining the necessary funds to get the project started.

"This was a miracle of sorts, as funding rarely reaches rural areas," said McKim. "All the stars aligned to get this together."

Rep. Filner talked about the earmark that helped get over \$7 million to the Bypass at a critical time.

"We were able to help the state with some funding," Filner explained. "This sort of project helps commerce with the border and is good for the American economy."

County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat holder Gary Wyatt, who represents most of Brawley, spoke on the cooperative efforts from the county and all of the

affected cities in getting the project off the ground.

"This has been an effort from all over the Valley, from the border to the northern half, said Wyatt.

Other speakers included Mark Baza, current head of the Imperial County Transportation Commission, and Jo Shields, who was a former board member of the IVAG and Brawley City Council.

The Brawley Bypass, also known as the Calexico Coachella Cargo Corridor, began in February 2004 near Mead Road and was completed in May of 2005.

Phase 2 began in 2007 and finished this month and Phase three is expected to finish spring of 2013.